

# The Ancient Mariner

Cantata for Children's Voices & Percussion

Words by S. Taylor Coleridge

**STUART SCOTT**



**SJS Publications**

6 Colville Grove Sale, Cheshire M33 4FW  
1980

# The Ancient Mariner

Narrator: An Ancient Mariner met three men on their way to a wedding feast. One of the men was spell-bound by the eye of the old sea-faring man and stopped to hear his tale.

## Bon Voyage

Words adapted from S. Coleridge Taylor

Music by Stuart Scott

**Cheerfully**

Voice

The ship was cheered the har - bour cleared  
The ship was cheered the har - bour cleared

Xylophone

Snare Drum

Cymbals

Percussion continues to end

5

Voice

Merr-i - ly did we drop. Be - low the kirk be - low the hill be -  
Out of the sea came he And he shone bright and on the right —

9

**fine.**

Voice

low — the light - house top. The sun came up up - on — the left, Out of the sea came  
went down in - to the sea.

14

Voice

he, And he shone bright and on the right went down in - to the sea.

D.C. al fine

Narrator: The ship was driven by a storm toward the South Pole.  
The land of ice, and of fearful sounds, where no living thing  
was to be seen.

**Slow and quiet** fade

Glockenspiel

Chimes *tremolo*

Cymbals

Use this music as a background for Speaker 1.

Speaker 1. And now there came both mist and snow  
And it grew wondrous cold:  
And ice, mast high came floating by  
As green as emerald.  
At length did cross an Albatross:  
And round and round it flew.  
And a good south wind sprung up behind  
The Albatross did follow.

Narrator: The Albatross proved a bird of good omen and followed  
the ship as it returned northward through fog and floating ice  
but the Ancient Mariner killed the Albatross with his crossbow  
and the ship sailed on and entered the Pacific Ocean till it reached  
the Line where it was suddenly becalmed.

# Becalmed

3

## Leisurely

Voice

1. Down dropt the breeze \_\_\_\_\_ Twas sad as sad could be; \_\_\_\_\_ And  
3. Water wat - er ev'rywhere \_\_\_\_\_ And all the boards did shrink; \_\_\_\_\_

Voice/Rec

Down dropt the breeze As sad as sad could

Guio

Tambourine

Percussion continues to end

9

Voice

we did speak on - ly to brea - k the sil - ence of the sea \_\_\_\_\_ , the  
Wat - er water ev' \_\_\_\_\_ ry where \_\_\_\_\_ Nor an - y drop to drink \_\_\_\_\_ Nor

Voice/Rec

be the

18

Voice

Fine Verse 2.

sil - ence of the sea Day aft - er day we stuck nor breath nor mot - ion  
an - y drop to drink.

Voice/Rec

sil - ence of the sea.

27

Voice

\_\_\_\_\_ As i - dle as a paint - ed ship \_\_\_\_\_

32

Voice

Da Capo al fine

\_\_\_\_\_ up - on a paint - ed o - cean.

Narrator: The Albatross began to be avenged and a spirit, one of those invisible inhabitants of this planet - neither departed souls, nor angels - followed them. The shipmates in distress blamed the Ancient Mariner and as a sign of his guilt hung the dead sea bird round his neck. But a ship approached and horror followed. For can it be a ship that comes onward without wind or tide?

## The Skeleton Ship

Slow, Mysterious

The musical score is written for a solo voice and a percussion ensemble. The tempo is 'Slow, Mysterious' and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of seven staves. The first two staves are for the voice, with the first staff containing the melody and lyrics, and the second staff being empty. The remaining five staves are for percussion: Bass Xylophone, Woodblock, Guiro, Snare Drum, and Cymbal. The percussion parts are synchronized with the voice melody. The Snare Drum part features a triplet of eighth notes in measures 2, 3, and 4. The Woodblock, Guiro, and Cymbal parts have specific rhythmic patterns in measures 2, 3, and 4. The Bass Xylophone part has a simple pattern of half notes in measures 2, 3, and 4. The Bass Drum part has a simple pattern of half notes in measures 2, 3, and 4.

Voice

A - las thought I and my heart beat loud, How fast she nears and

Voice

Bass Xylophone

Woodblock

Guiro

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

Cymbal

Xylophone, Woodblock, Guiro and Snare Drum continue to end

4

Voice

nears Are those her sails that glance in the sun? Like rest - less

Voice

oo - aa - oo

B. D.

Cym.

8

Voice

goss - a - meres! Are those her ribs thro' which the sun did lips were red her locks were free, Her

Voice

oo - aa - oo

B. D.

Cym.

11

Voice

peer as thro' a grate and is that wom-an all her crew? Is that a Death? And locks were yell - ow as gold, Her skin was white as leprosy, The Night - mare Life in

Voice

B. D.

Cym.

14

Voice

are there two? Is Death that wom-an's mate? Her cold

Death was she, Who thicks man's blood with

B. D.

Cym.

fade

Narrator: At the rising of the Moon, one after another the Mariner's shipmates  
dropped down dead.

Compose your own music as a background for these words:

Speaker 1. Four times fifty living men,  
(And I heard nor sigh nor groan)  
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump,  
They dropped down one by one.

The souls did from their bodies fly,  
They fled to bliss or woe!  
And every soul, it passed me by  
Like the whizz of my cross-bow!

Narrator: By the light of the moon the Mariner saw God's creatures  
in all their beauty and their happiness. Unaware he blessed  
them in his heart and from his neck the Albatross fell and  
sank like lead into the sea whereupon the Mariner was  
refreshed with rain.

# Round

**Not too fast**

1. 2. 3.

Voices

The sill - y buck-ets on the \_ deck that had so long re - mained, I

Glock/Xylo

Tambourine

Drum

Percussion continues to end

5

Voices

dreamt that they were filled with \_ dew, And when I \_ woke it rained; And the

Verse 2.

And the coming wind did roar more loud  
 And the sails did sigh like sedge;  
 And the rain poured down from one black cloud;  
 The Moon was at its edge.

Verse 3.

The loud wind never reached the ship,  
 Yet now the ship moved on!  
 Beneath the lightning and the Moon  
 The dead men gave a groan.

Verse 4.

They groaned, they stirred, they all uprose,  
 Nor spake, nor moved their eyes;  
 It had been strange, even in a dream  
 To have seen these dead men rise.

Narrator: The bodies of the ship's crew had risen and the ship moved on.



Percussion



Compose your own background music for these words:

Speaker 1. But tell me, tell me! speak again  
 Thy soft response renewing -  
 What makes that ship drive on so fast?  
 What is the ocean doing?

Speaker 2. Still as a slave before his Lord  
 The ocean hath no blast;  
 His great bright eye most silently  
 Up to the Moon is cast -  
 If he may know which way to go  
 For she guides him smooth or grim  
 See brother, see! how graciously  
 She looketh down on him.

Speaker 1. But why drives on that ship so fast  
 Without wave or wind?

Speaker 2. The air is cut away before  
 And closes from behind.  
 Fly brother, fly! more high, more high!  
 Or we shall be belated:  
 For slow and slow that ship will go,  
 When the Mariner's trance is abated.

Narrator: The super-natural motion was retarded. The Mariner awoke  
 and the curse was lifted. He beheld his native country and  
 the angelic spirits left the dead bodies and appeared in their  
 own forms of light.

# The Angels

9

Not too fast

Voice: Each corpse lay flat — life-less and  
 Glockenspiel  
 Chime Bars  
 Triangle  
 Maracas  
 Cymbal

Percussion continues to end.

7  
 Voice: flat And by the ho - ly rood! A man all light, A  
 12  
 Voice: ser - aph man on ev - ry corpse their stood.

Verse 2.

This seraph band, each waved his hand;  
 It was a heavenly sight!  
 They stood as signals to the land  
 Each one a lovely light.

Verse 3.

This seraph band, each waved his hand;  
 No voice did they impart -  
 No voice; but oh! the silence sank  
 Like music on my heart.

Narrator: The Pilot's boat approached the sinking ship and the Mariner was saved.

**Fairly Slow**

Bass Xylo: *tr* *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Guiro: *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Woodblock: *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Maracas: *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Bass Drum: *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Cymbals: *tr* *ppp* *cresc poco a poco al fine* *fff* *repeat ad. lib.*

Use this music as a background for the following words:

Speaker 1. The boat came closer to the ship  
But I nor spake nor stirred;  
The boat came close beneath the ship,  
And straight a sound was heard.

Speaker 2. Under the water it runbled on  
Still louder and more dread:  
It reached the ship, it split the bay;  
The ship went down like lead.

Narrator: Penance fell on the Ancient Mariner and his life was bound to travel  
from land to land to teach by his own example, love and reverence  
to all things that God made.

# Song of Farewell

**Cheerfully**



Use the music to the first song and sing these words:

Verse 1. Farewell, farewell! but this I tell  
 To thee, thou Wedding Guest!  
 He prayeth well, who loveth well  
 Both man and bird and beast.

Verse2. He prayeth best who loveth best  
 All things both great and small;  
 For the dear God who loveth us,  
 He made and loveth all.  
 (Repeat)